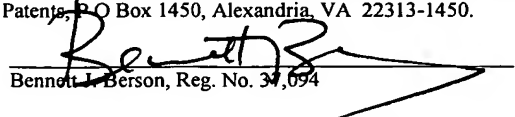


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date set forth below as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P O Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date of Signature and Deposit: July 26, 2006


Bennett L. Berson, Reg. No. 37,694

PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: David C. Schwartz
Eileen T. Dimalanta
Juan J. de Pablo

Date: July 26, 2006

Serial No.: 10/713,898

Art Unit: 1637

Filing Date: October 18, 2002

Examiner: Stephanie Mummert

Title: MICRO FLUIDIC SYSTEM FOR SINGLE
MOLECULE IMAGING

File No.: 960295.99047

Confirmation No.: 4216

RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT FOR RESTRICTION

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P O Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In an Office Action mailed June 14, 2006, the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application divided the claims into three (3) groups and required restriction to one of the groups. In response to this requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group II (Claims 21-27), with traverse and without prejudice to the eventual filing of a divisional application on Groups I and III.

With respect to Groups I and II, the requirement is respectfully traversed on the grounds that the Examiner has not shown that the apparatus of Group I can be used with a materially different process. MPEP § 806.05(e). The Examiner alleged that the apparatus of Group I can be used for sequencing, size separation, HPLC or affinity separation techniques. Applicants, however, submit that the purpose of the apparatus of Group I if used in any of the alleged materially different processes is to achieve the fixing and straightening afforded by the methods of Group II. Accordingly, the process for which the apparatus would be used is

not materially different, even if a subsequent process could employ the polymeric material. Therefore, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the restriction between Group I and Group II. If the Examiner is suggesting that this apparatus finds utility in a process that does not fix and straighten the polymeric molecular, applicants respectfully request documentary proof in support of the Examiner's position.

Fees

A petition for extension of time is enclosed herewith so this response will be considered as timely filed. Please charge the extension fee and any other fee due to Deposit Account No. 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,



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